

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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DAILY BY MAIL. One year.....\$1.00 Four months......75

Postage prepaid in advance. All subscription orders should give the P. O. address and state whether it is a new or renewal order.

THE GATE CITY is on sale at the following news stands: Hotel Keokuk, cor. Third and Johnson.

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Keokuk, Iowa March 30, 1913

THE OLD HOME FOLKS.

Not on the chance acquaintance, Nor yet on the new found friend,

For comfort may we depend, If I should be permitted,

From them I would name a husband For the dimpled, would-be bride;

The old home folks are surest To notice if we succeed,

So do not be quick in forsaking The faithfully tried for the new,

For tho' it is said the prophet Has honor except at home,

And when in the fading twilight We put off life's stern jokes,

While away on their sunny hilltops, By Elysian breezes fanned,

The railroad slogan, "safety first," is being preached in a series of railroad revival services in Pittsburgh.

Mandayam Ypralivadhayankaram Tirunab Acharya applied for naturalization papers in New York and got away with them.

The Dr. Hyde affair promises to become a semi-annual performance in Kansas City. Fourth trial is booked for September next.

A spring clean-up on the wholesale plan will start in New York April 1 and keep going until every back yard looks as scrumptious as a Fifth avenue parade.

There are four Williams and two Davids in the president's cabinet and no two of any other first name.

St. Paul threatens to pull off an official slumming search with red light reflectors. All the later-day messengers of St. Paul have to do with home-grown sinners.

Down in New York they point to a fortune of \$500,000 left by a police inspector as proof of what opportunity's friendly admonitions will do for a man who is alive and on the job.

New York manifests a great weariness of spirit toward its conglomeration of skyscrapers and has appointed a committee to consider the feasibility of limiting the height of buildings.

Mayor "Honey Fitz" of Boston wants a charter which will revise downward the membership of the city council. He thinks a council of twelve or thirteen can do more business with less talk than the present council.

Former Mayor Shank of Indianapolis, the reformer who swatted middlemen with potatoes and cabbage, plans to go on the vaudeville stage and extract a living from jaded consumers.

Count Ivan Nepulleff of Russia is a scout-master of a troop of Russian boy scouts. One patrol in the troop is called the Terrier patrol and their patrol flag bears the head of a small white dog with a small black patch over the left eye.

James Wilson, alias "Tama Jim," and Henry Wallace are the two dromedaries of Iowa. Both are Scotchmen, one a farmer, the other a minister, each nearing 78, and were grouped in a picture taken at Des Moines last week.

George H. Richardson of Portland, has a receipt which recalls a law enforced in that city as late as 1849. It reads: "Received of John H. Warren one dollar for having a lighted cigar in his possession, in Middle street, on the 24 day of June, 1849." It is signed by the city marshal.

A searching committee of the Chicago city council reports millions in taxes lost to the city every year because of inefficient tax laws relating to railroad property. Railroad real estate pays barely one-third of the amount assessed against real estate privately owned.

A lonesome Hoosier youngster too bashful or busy to chase dull care away, advertises for a girl anxious to change her name, manage his home and do other chores. "I don't care if the girl hasn't got a cent," he exclaims in cold type. To avert the perils of a bargain rush, name and address are withheld.

A Pittsburgh seeress while revealing the wonders of the future to a group of lightheads was rudely pulled out of her trance by detectives looking for \$2,000 swiped from a local sucker. From gorgeously appointed parlors the seeress was transferred to a plean cell, where a search revealed some of the money.

BIRD PROTECTION. Now that the Weeks-McLean bill giving federal protection to migratory birds, which was characterized on the floor of the house as "the most radical legislation ever proposed in this country," has become a law, the American Game Protective and Propagation Association, which engineered the passage of the measure, is being swamped with inquiries as to how and when it will be put into effect.

"An amendment to the Weeks-McLean bill which was made just before final passage makes mandatory the adoption by the department of agriculture of suitable regulations prescribing closed seasons, having due regard for zones of temperature, breeding habits, and times and lines of migratory flight. The bill provides that when these regulations are prepared they shall be made public and that a period of three months shall be allowed before final adoption, in order that they may be examined and considered, and that public hearings may be granted if this is deemed advisable.

"At the present time it is impossible to say how much time will be required to draw up these regulations. The matter will be entrusted to the biological survey, which is a bureau of the department of agriculture, and while much of the requisite data has already been collected in connection with the survey's other activities, it will at least be necessary to compile available information on migrations and breeding habits in different sections of the country, and coordinate it with the proposed regulations in view. It may be found advisable to make more exhaustive investigations of these problems to supplement those which have been carried out for other purposes. In any case, it will be impossible for the new law to take effect in time to protect the birds during the breeding season which is at hand, and unless unforeseen difficulties arise it will unquestionably be in operation before the migrations of 1914.

"The regulations imposed will prohibit absolutely the killing of those song and insectivorous birds whose value to agriculture greatly outweighs their food value. Notable members of this class are robins, black birds, and bobolinks. In a general way it is safe to say that migratory game birds such as ducks, geese, swans and shore birds, will be protected from the time they mate in the spring until their young are full grown. As these birds mate earlier in some parts of the United States than in others, hard and fast rules governing open and closed seasons cannot be made for the whole country, but zones will have to be created and shooting seasons determined in accordance with conditions in each zone. Additional protection in certain zones, or for the whole country, will probably be given to some species which are now threatened with extinction, until they have increased beyond the danger point. Likely candidates for this special consideration are the woodcock, in many localities, the woodduck, trumpeter swan, whooping and sand-hill cranes, and many varieties of shore birds.

"An important provision in the bill which should not be lost sight of says: 'That nothing herein contained shall be deemed to affect or interfere with the local laws of the states and territories for the protection of non-migratory game or other birds resident and breeding within their borders, nor to prevent the states and territories from enacting laws and regulations to promote and render efficient the regulations of the department of agriculture provided under this statute.' As most states already have laws which will fulfill the requirements of the federal law, no new restrictions will be placed on their

citizens, unless in the matter of better enforcement, and as the laws were made to be enforced there can be no logical objection to this. In the fight to secure this legislation it was plainly shown that the better sentiment in those states which now allow spring shooting, and the slaughter of song birds, is decidedly against these practices, and it was made evident that all real sportsmen and all thinking people will welcome federal action to put a stop to them where it has been impossible to secure state action. Besides gratifying such people, the new measure will remedy a great injustice which is at present suffered by sportsmen in states which have adequate game laws through the fact that gunners in neighboring states have greater opportunities to shoot and, therefore, get more than their rightful share of birds.

The details connected with the enforcement of the Weeks-McLean law are yet to be perfected, but the state authorities will probably take the most active part in making it effective, as in the case of the Lacey act. The latter is a federal statute which prohibits traffic in game under the interstate commerce clause, in states where it is unlawful to sell it. When this act was under discussion its advocates maintained that a large and expensive force would be necessary to make it effective, but experience has proved that a very small appropriation was needed as the local wardens were glad to enforce it. The same will be true of the legislation just passed. The appropriation of \$10,000 which it carried will prove sufficient for immediate needs, and considering the importance of the law and the money it will save the country there is no doubt that congress will increase the appropriation when necessary.

"Besides the one already mentioned, another amendment was made just before the bill became a law. This was to satisfy constitutional objections, and it provides that the imposition of fines or imprisonment for violation of the act shall be in the discretion of the court instead of the department of agriculture. In this connection it is gratifying to note that one of the most able lawyers in the country expressed the opinion that the supreme court would sustain the Weeks-McLean law when he heard the decision it has just made in favor of the constitutionality of the white slave law which was passed in July, 1910.

"Now that the principle of federal protection of migrants has been recognized, it should logically be extended to international protection. Senator Root has introduced a resolution requesting the president to propose to other North American countries the negotiation of treaties for the mutual protection of migratory birds. Senators Weeks and McLean are in favor of this proposal, and will prove powerful allies in getting it through. The national association has already commenced to lay plans with every hope that the same protection will be given to our migrants when they are beyond our borders that we have just accorded them while they are with us."

BRYCE'S OPINION. A high tribute to the National Municipal League, as an agency for the promotion of municipal progress, comes from Ambassador Bryce. No man is more familiar with the American situation than the British ambassador, who has devoted years to a study of conditions here and has written so intelligently and interestingly about them.

Ambassador Bryce's appreciation of the National Municipal League's work in dealing with the many problems of the American community, is expressed in a letter received by the secretary, Clinton Rogers Woodruff. It is given in its entirety: "The problems of municipal government in this country are among the most difficult with which its people have to deal, having regard to the extremely rapid growth of the cities and to the enormous influx into them of immigrants, many of whom do not know the language or understand the institutions of the country.

"There is, therefore, no field of inquiry in which exact knowledge of the facts and a scientific treatment of existing difficulties are more needed than in that of municipal administration, and I venture to believe that the work of the National Municipal League, and the service rendered by the National Municipal Review, as its organ, may be very great. "So much experience is already accumulating in all quarters with regard to the forms and working of municipal institutions, and the best methods of dealing with problems incident to vast populations crowded into the narrow limits of the city, that it is most important to have a journal in which this experience can be recorded and the results of it made available for the students of municipal problems. "European experience is hardly less valuable in this respect than American experience is valuable to Europe, so, too, is European experience valuable to America, and I am glad to think that such a journal as the Re-

"Obey"

For many years there has been more or less rebellious protest against that little word "obey" in the marriage service, and every once in a while some one comes along who takes her promises seriously and who feels unwilling to go through a form of words to which she cannot subscribe in spirit.

And now it seems that the archbishop of Canterbury objected to the announcement that at an approaching marriage in English society the bride was willing to promise to love and honor "till death us do part," but would not consent to obey; and he is quoted as saying that the omission of the word would make the ceremony illegal.

Apart from the church end of it and without any desire to attack a ceremony which for ages has borne the stamp of its approval, it really seems time that the institution of marriage should deal with the realities of life as we find them.

And the realities of life today hardly warrant the continuance of that word "obey," any more than they do that meaningless clause— "With all my worldly goods I thee endow."

Why should a woman render obedience to anyone? Why should a man surrender all claim to his "worldly goods"?

And the unreasoning feature of it is that the wife renders obedience no more than the husband give up his all on his wedding day.

There was a time in the history of men and women when a wife, in point of law, was little more than a chattel, and while the word "obey" was as incongruous and unlovely then in its application to husband and wife as it is today, there was a background of reality.

But in our times, a marriage that fulfills its promise of happiness must keep all notions of superiority beautifully subdued before the more hopeful reign of equality.

And, though it may be regarded as nothing but a shadow and the shadow happens to offend the sense of the eternal fitness of things as some folk see it, why not make the marriage ceremony in harmony with the spirit of today?

Do you realize the difference between a home where the wife and mother is recognized by each member as living on exactly the same plane as the husband and father, intellectually and otherwise, and the other type of home where the wife and mother must defer to a higher will that is supreme where matters of family import are concerned?

And do you realize that the mother-

influence wanes when the small folk note that it is "father" who comes first, he who decides, he who controls by an attitude of supremacy? For there are still some homes where the spirit of the word "obey" still lingers, and they are not the ideal homes, not the homes from which the broadest types of men and women emerge.

For it is only as women are clear-seeing, free in thought, intellectual and conscious of their own worth that they can carry their boys and girls along with them to a point where they look to womanhood as typifying something big, true and worth while, just as they do to manhood.

It is not a pleasant thing to admit, and now that the day of "superiority" has quite largely gone by, one does not care for any relics or reminders of less comfortable times, and that is the reason it seems well to clean up all around.

That is why statute books are being examined more closely than heretofore and why broad-minded, justice-loving folk are asking for the repeal of laws that tell unpleasant stories of old times.

Doubtless it is more or less a dead-letter, but why should any state in our great country still carry along a law permitting a man to control his wife's earnings? It is contrary to the sentiment that alone makes marriage a beautiful institution and should be relegated to a dead, an outlived past. Yet such a law still stands in ten states. Unfortunately, it was not a dead-letter in France in the days when the gifted artist, Madame Lebrun, painted those exquisite portraits and her spendthrift artist-husband demanded her earnings; but now that the spirit is all out of it why should we preserve the letter of a law that is as unjust as it is ugly?

It is just as unbecomingly to the new man as to the new woman, for the new man recognizes that from equality and comradeship the ideal marriage grows easily and naturally.

And those three words, love, honor and share, cover a great deal, a great deal that never will grow and thrive under the restraining, demoralizing effect of "obey," and all that it implies of superiority and inferiority.

And while there doubtless are many who want the marriage ceremony preserved in its old, revered form, there are others who hope to see all our institutions breathe a spirit of equality and growth, man developing to his best possibilities, woman always keeping pace, for, there's the Princess, you remember.

"If she be small, slight-natured, miserable. How shall men grow?"

FRANCESCA.

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